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12 June 68  
DRAFT

[REDACTED]

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology  
SUBJECT: Program Plan for Advanced Reconnaissance System Study

1. In prior years, extensive contractor effort developed details on a proposed air launched boost glide system called ISINGLASS. At this time, we do not consider the equivalent detailed study of other concepts appropriate or economically feasible. However, at this time, we would propose that an assessment be given of the ISINGLASS proposal and a comparison be made with various competing concepts.

2. We propose to let a contract with [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] to perform a study with the following guidelines: Hypothesizing that the ISINGLASS concept as jointly developed by [REDACTED] is a technologically feasible system, the following questions are to be answered:

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- a. Will it do the job? (This would include a further definition of the task envisioned).
- b. What are the deficiencies, risks, etc., involved in the development and operation of the system and are there any parts of the total system which were not considered in these prior studies?
- c. What are the competing concepts (scramjet, single pass satellite, BGRV, FOBS, sub-orbital vehicles, etc.)?

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- d. Are the cost estimates reasonably valid?
- e. Is the schedule reasonably valid?
- f. What is the impact of unmanned versus manned operation and what is the potential role of man in the development phase if the operational equipment is to be unmanned?
- g. As a conclusion, why (is ISINGLASS) the best way to go or, if not, what guidelines are recommended for ~~use~~ as a basis for a RFP for hardware studies with one or more airframe and propulsion contractors?

3. We estimate that such a study would cover a period of 6 to 9 months at a manning level between [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Base line data to be used by the contractor would include the ISINGLASS studies of [REDACTED] and CIA OXCART operational vehicle experiences, the [REDACTED] proposal, IDEALIST systems and operational experiences, capabilities of existing and projected satellite systems, including the indications warning satellite, and the [REDACTED] studies on a follow-on to OXCART. In addition, we would depend to a great extent on the outputs of the requested study from OSI on the projected threat model for the 1975-80 time frame.

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